

Large Woody Debris Removal

The Conservation District can provide riparian landowners/managers with cost-share and technical assistance with large woody debris removal and streambank stabilization.

For more information about the Large Woody Debris Program, contact the District's Watershed

Specialist today!



Large woody debris may need to be removed when it poses an imminent threat to public health, safety, and property loss.

Conservation, Education, Stewardship
Since 1948

Vision

The York County Conservation District is committed to the improvement and protection of our environment and the wise use of our County's diverse natural resources.

Mission

To achieve that vision, the York County Conservation District will be proactive providing conservation education, technical services and financial assistance to enable the citizens of York County to be good stewards natural resources.

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Large Woody Debris Program

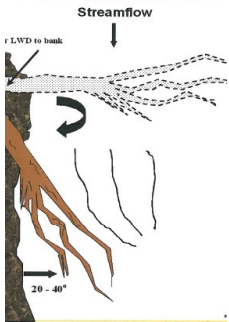


Large Woody Debris

Large Woody Debris (LWD) is a general term referring to all wood naturally occurring or artificially placed in streams. It can include branches, stumps, logs, and logjams. LWD in streams is mostly

from trees located in the riparian corridor. Streams affected by urbanization, agriculture, development, or clear-cutting often lack a sufficient quantity of the LWD necessary to maintain a healthy and stable

ecosystem. Streams with adequate LWD tend to have greater habitat diversity, greater resilience to high water events, and a natural meandering shape. Therefore, LWD is an essential component of a healthy stream's ecology and is beneficial.



Stream flow with large woody debris



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Many riparian owners and land managers traditionally treat woody material in streams as a nuisance and remove the LWD with uncertain consequences. Logjams are obstructions occurring in streams from the accumulation of woody vegetation, with or without debris. They obstruct a stream channel and create a backwater condition. Logjams may be positive or negative depending on the perspective and the specific site characteristics. Determining a logjam's value requires an understanding of watershed dynamics as well as the social and biological impacts in the watershed. Not all logjams need removal. Leaving LWD in place should be considered in high-quality streams as long as the water is not impounding behind the logjam. The York County Conservation District can provide landowners with financial and technical assistance with LWD management and removal.

LWD Removal Cost Share

What is the LWD Removal Program? The Conservation District receives funding annually to remove LWD obstructions posing imminent threats to public health and safety and property loss.

Who's Eligible?

Riparian landowners and local municipal governments are eligible for cost-share.

How Does It Work?

The landowner/manager must complete and submit a one-page LWD Removal Cost Share application form, with 1-3 cost estimates, to the Conservation District. The Conservation District Board will review the application, decide whether the project is eligible and recommended, and then notify the applicant in writing. Once approved, the applicant must sign a cost-share agreement with the District before doing the work. The applicant may only commence with the work once the LWD removal cost-share agreement is in place. If streambank stabilization is needed, then a permit may be required from PADEP. Permitting costs may also be included in the cost-share.

